

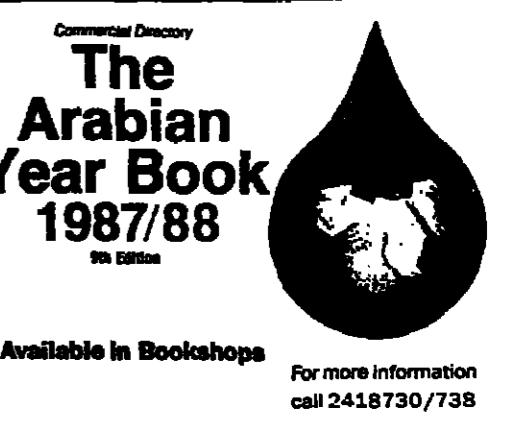
NO. 7487

ARAB TIMES



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

RAJAB 14, 1409 AH



16 PAGES 150 FILS

Religious leaders arrive for second stage of discussions

Talks to end Lebanese crisis to be held today

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Agencies): Lebanon's Muslim and Christian religious leaders arrived in Kuwait today for talks with an Arab League committee on ending the 14-year-old Lebanese civil war.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed received the spiritual leaders.

The leaders of five of the six major religious sects arrived from Beirut.

They are: Maronite Catholic Patriarch Butros Sfeir; Roman Catholic Patriarch Maximus Hakim; Sunni Muslim Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled; the Vice-President of the Supreme Shiite Muslim Council, Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine and the supreme religious judge of the Druze community, Sheikh Mursel Nassr.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Hazim, the spiritual leader of an estimated 300,000 Lebanese, arrived from the Syrian capital, Damascus, where he resides.

Charged

The talks to be held tomorrow are the second stage of an effort by a seven-man Arab League committee charged with seeking a settlement of the political crisis that has left Lebanon without a president for the past 147 days.

The first stage was held in Tunis last month, when the committee probed the crisis

separately with Army commander Gen. Michel Aoun, who heads the Christian cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, and with his Sunni rival, acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Shiite parliamentary Speaker Hussein Hussein.

The committee was formed during a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis last month.

Besides Sheikh Sabah the other members are the foreign ministers of Algeria, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the League's Secretary-General Chedli Klibi.

The latest Lebanese political crisis was touched off by Aoun's appointment as prime minister of a caretaker military cabinet on Sept 22. President Amin Gemayel made the appointment only minutes before his six-year term ended after Parliament was unable to convene to elect his successor.

Violated

Muslims rejected Aoun's appointment, contending it violated an unwritten national covenant dating to Lebanon's independence from France in 1943. This gave the premiership to the Sunnis, the parliamentary speakership to the Shiites and the presidency to the Maronites.

Lebanon has been divided into Muslim and Christian facto

cantons since the 1975 outbreak of the civil war that has claimed more than 130,000 lives.

Parliamentary sources in Beirut said Sfeir would argue for the election of a new president before discussing reforms to the political system.

The Muslim clerics, on the other hand, would place political reforms at the top of their agenda.

The sources said Sfeir would also urge the containment of Muslim and Christian militias in Beirut and the withdrawal of

Syrian troops from the capital to help ensure a smooth presidential election with no external pressure.

There were reports in the Arab press earlier this month that the Arab League committee favours the creation of a militia-free greater Beirut under the sole control of mixed Muslim and Christian units of the Lebanese Army.

This would eliminate Beirut's mid-city dividing Green Line, reunifying the capital.

If the Arab committee wins Syria's agreement to the greater Beirut plan, analysts say, then the Parliament would be able to elect a new president and form a national union cabinet that would introduce political reforms.

The Muslims, who make up 55 per cent of Lebanon's four million population, have been fighting in the civil war for an equal share of power with the Christians.

The Syrians, who back the Muslims, have been maintaining an estimated 40,000 troops in north and east Lebanon as well as in Beirut's Muslim sector under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League.

Appeared

Before his departure Sfeir appealed to Aoun and Christian Lebanese Forces militia leader Samir Geagea to avoid a moderate rebel leaders in Islamabad walked out of a council meeting after delegates disagreed on an interim cabinet.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil told BBC radio in Kabul today the new government military council would be formed in the next few days to coordinate the fight against the Muslim guerrillas, known as the mujahideen.

Wakil said new security measures also would begin soon, including house searches. He said the state of emergency declared last night was a precaution and "a sign of strength, not weakness."



(From left) Sheikh Khaled, Butros Sfeir and Sheikh Shamseddine arrived in Kuwait yesterday for talks on Lebanese crisis. (Photo by Mohammed Bader)

Rebels claim taking provincial capital

Najibullah tightens grip on government

KABUL, Afghanistan, Feb 19, (Agencies): President Najibullah, who has restricted civil liberties under a state of emergency, will head a supreme military command over Afghanistan's economic and military matters, officials said today.

details released today. The government also ordered 500 party members in Kabul to report to headquarters to join the armed forces, such as civilian militias, to maintain security in the capital.

The Afghan News Agency, an organ of the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami guerrilla group, claimed today that insurgents captured "many" Afghan government soldiers and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition when Tarin Kot, capital of Uruzgan province, fell on Friday.

There was no independent confirmation of the report, and ANA gave no further details.

In neighbouring Pakistan, a special meeting of 400 Afghan guerrilla leaders called to approve leaders for an interim government broke up in Islamabad after several delegates from moderate factions walked out.

All retired civil and military employees will get KD300

retired

The State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rasheed said civil and military employees, policemen and members of the National Guard will each get a bonus equal to their monthly social and children's allowance.

All retired civil and military employees will get KD300

retired

Socially disadvantaged people will receive an amount equal to their monthly assistance.

An Amiri Decree to this effect will be issued.

The financial grant will cost the government KD38.5 million.

Bonus for government employees

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (Agencies): HH the Amir has ordered millions of dinars' worth of bonus payments a week before the country celebrates 28 years of independence.

All government and military employees will get the bonus, a government spokesman said today after a regular cabinet meeting.

Retired government employees and the socially disadvantaged will also benefit.

Convincing

"Only through dialogue and convincing can one overcome the stubborn Israeli stand ..." Shevardnadze said in a news conference before leaving Damascus.

"Naturally it includes the Middle East issue and the peaceful march to solve this question," he said.

The Soviet minister was due to fly later today to Cairo, where he plans to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens — pushing the Soviet Union closer to the heart of Middle East peace efforts.

Retired

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Reconvene

Reinstate

Reshuffle

Reopen

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1990

Premadasa's top priority is to restore peace

Premier to be elected by secret ballot

COLOMBO, Feb 19. (Reuters): Sri Lanka's new prime minister is likely to be picked this week in a secret ballot by newly elected members of the ruling United National Party (UNP) party sources said today.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa, whose party last week won the most violent elections in the island's history, can nominate the prime minister but has refrained from doing so.

He appointed a 21-member cabinet yesterday without naming a prime minister.

Premadasa's main priority is to restore peace on the island shattered by a leftist guerrilla campaign in the south and Tamil separatists in the north.

More than 400 people were killed in the campaign, including

40 during Wednesday's voting. The government blamed much of the election violence on leftist rebels.

Former National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali and two other members of the new cabinet, Gamini Dissanayake and Sirisena Cooray, are in the race for the premiership.

Athulathmudali, 52, has staked his claim to the job on the ground that he received the highest number of votes among all candidates.

Perception

"In the public perception the person who received the highest number of votes will be seen to be the prime minister," the island newspaper quoted him as saying.

His supporters have inserted

full-page advertisements in newspapers publicising the fact that he got more votes than others.

Party sources said the current thinking was that UNP Members of Parliament should decide who should get the job. But they said Premadasa still had the option to name his own man.

Political analysts said Premadasa clearly did not want to get directly involved in choosing a prime minister as it could make other aspirants unhappy.

Image

Political analyst Hector Abeywardene said: "He doesn't want to involve himself in career conflicts. He is acting very shrewdly."

"If we were to nominate someone, two or three aspirants will be against him," he added.

5 dead, 140 hurt in Colombia bull ring collapse

BOGOTA, Feb 19. (Reuters): At least five people were killed and 140 injured yesterday when a temporary bull ring collapsed in Honda, 70 miles (110 km) west of Bogota, Colombian civil defence spokesman said.

Nearly 3,000 people were watching an afternoon bullfight from the structure made of scaffolding, a Honda civil defence official said.

"The metallic structure gave way and the bull ring collapsed like a sand castle," said ticket seller Juan Fernando Gomez.

The wounded, many suffering from broken legs or arms, were rushed to hospitals in Honda and the nearby towns of Marquita and Ibagué as well as Bogota.

Gomez said many spectators escaped by fleeing into the ring, where a bullfighter was making his traditional pre-fight tour of the ring.

Colombian radio stations quoted witnesses as saying the temporary structure held too many spectators.

The bull fight had been organised as part of a local festival in Honda, a small town of the Magdalena River, to celebrate the memory of Pepe Caceres, Colombia's most famous bullfighter, who was killed by a bull 15 months ago.

Local officials said it was difficult to give an exact figure for the wounded since some appeared to have been taken away by relatives.

Seoul protests

SEOUL, Feb 19. (AP): Radical workers and students today demonstrated against the government of President Roh Tae-woo, which they said is suppressing the labour movement.

Duke wins seat in Louisiana House

METAIRIE, Louisiana, Feb 19. (UPI): Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, running against the opposition of the White House, the national Republican establishment and virtually every political leader in his district, won election yesterday to the Louisiana House of Representatives.

"We won. It's a new day for Louisiana. It's a new day for the country," exclaimed Duke who had waited at the Jefferson parish courthouse for the results of the emotional campaign.

Duke immediately headed to his election night headquarters where several hundred people were celebrating.

With all 35 precincts counted, including one for absentee ballots, Duke won with 8,456 votes, or 51 percent of the total, to opponent John Treen's 8,232.

The 224-vote margin of victory was far closer than Duke had predicted on the eve of the election.

Enjoyed

Running as a newly registered Republican, Duke beat the long-time Republican Treen. The brother of former Gov. Dave Treen, John Treen had enjoyed the endorsements of Ronald Reagan, President Bush, the National Republican Party, and most local political leaders, Democrat and Republican.

The victory did not mark the end of Duke's struggle, however.

Louisiana House sources said before the election there would be a move to prevent Duke from taking his seat if he won. That



Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke waves to supporters after winning a seat to the Louisiana House of Representatives. (Reuters wirephoto)

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BA begins to check passengers' radios

LONDON, Feb 19. (AP): British Airways has begun inspecting passengers' electronic and electrical equipment following the announcement that explosives hidden in a radio-cassette player blew up Pan Am flight 103.

In another development, the Department of Transport said it was testing a US-made scanner that can detect plastic explosives of the kind believed to have been used in the downing of the Pan Am jet. The department denied it was inspecting passengers.

"As it uses neutrons, we have to make sure it is absolutely safe," a spokesman said of the computer scanner. The newspaper report said two similar computers were successfully tested at Los Angeles and San Francisco airports.

Police also took bags of clothes belonging to Winnie's bodyguards, and police spokesman Col. L.J. Haasbroek said objects taken from the house were "possibly bloodstained."

Spokesmen initially said a few young men who stay at the house were taken away after the raid at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT). Police later confirmed at least four were detained at Winnie's home but gave no other details.

The South African Press Association said documents, whips, sticks, clubs and clothing which appeared to have been spattered with blood were taken from the back rooms at the one-storey, brick, ranch-style home where Winnie has been living since his former home was burned in July by students in a battle with his bodyguards.

An airline spokesman said British Airways started asking passengers to take all electrical and electronic equipment out of their suitcases for a separate security check, and when the items were cleared, to carry aboard as hand baggage.

No major delays were reported because of the increased security.

Delayed

But in Atlanta, the takeoff of a British Airways flight to London was delayed for more than five hours last night by a bomb threat.

British Airways officials halted flight 226 minutes before its scheduled 6:15 p.m. (1115 GMT) departure after an unidentified man called the airline's New York office and told officials there was a bomb aboard the DC-10, said John W. Lample, the airline's director of public affairs in the United States.

Lample said no explosives were found in a 5-hour search and the aircraft carrying 122 passengers left Hartsfield Atlanta international airport for London's Gatwick airport at 11:41 p.m. (1641 GMT).

While Winnie went out about her normal daily routine in the house, police searched her belongings but did not take any of them, said a journalist at the scene.

Joubert, who directed the search, also is heading the investigation.

Bush confident of NATO unity

WASHINGTON, Feb 19. (Reuters): President Bush yesterday issued an upbeat assessment of NATO unity, despite a US dispute with West Germany over modernising short-range missiles, after talking with Secretary of State James Baker.

Baker, who returned on Friday from an eight-day tour of 15 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation member capitals, reviewed by telephone with Bush several issues that had been discussed with the allies, the White House said.

"The President expressed his conviction that NATO unity is

Four detained, blood traces found

Police raid Winnie Mandela's home

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 19. (AP): Police said today they detained at least four men, found traces of blood and took fingerprints from the Soweto home of black activist Winnie Mandela after an eight-hour search.

"We have found fingerprints and blood samples. These will be tested in our laboratory," said Maj.-Gen. Jaap Joubert, who is heading the investigation into the death of a 14-year-old black activist who allegedly was abducted and beaten at the house before his body, with the throat slit, was found dumped in Soweto.

Police also took bags of clothes belonging to Winnie's bodyguards, and police spokesman Col. L.J. Haasbroek said objects taken from the house were "possibly bloodstained."

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Bush confident of NATO unity

strong and his confidence that the allies will move together in addressing the major questions of international stability," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a statement.

Baker expressed confidence to reporters as he flew back to Washington from Paris on Friday the missile row would be settled by the time NATO leaders meet in May and he disputed reports the issue had caused a major rift between Washington and the allies.

The United States and Britain had been pressing NATO for a quick decision on updating the

lance short-range nuclear missiles based mostly in West Germany.

But shortly before Baker arrived in Europe, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said NATO could postpone a decision on the missiles until 1991-1992.

The White House statement, which did not specifically refer to the missile dispute, also said European leaders told Baker "their countries are firmly committed to the alliance as the key to the continent's past and future security."

38 killed in floods in Peru

LIMA, Feb 19. (Reuters): At least 38 people were killed and dozens missing after two rivers burst their banks in Peru's central jungle area, destroying several hamlets, authorities said yesterday.

Press reports put the death toll at more than 50 and said hundreds were missing in the rushing waters of the River Gera but a local government official reported only 38 fatalities.

"We have only had reports on 38 people killed and another 20 are listed as missing," Absalon Tuesta told Reuters by phone from Tarapoto, 400 miles (700 km) northeast of Lima. He did not give a figure for those missing in the floods caused by torrential rains.

Helicopters were carrying food and blankets as roads have been washed out by the Rivers Gera and Indoche, which burst their banks on Friday.

Missing

Press reports said floodwaters from the River Gera smashed into the hamlets of Shushuyacu and Nuevo San Miguel. In Lima, civil defence chief General Jorge Ferreyros reported 12 people killed in Shushuyacu.

Press reports said many of the 3,000 residents were missing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Polish polls

WARSAW, Feb 19. (UPI): Solidarity agreed yesterday to parliamentary elections that would guarantee a majority for the ruling government coalition, but the still-outlawed union opposed a proposal giving the nation's leader increased powers.

Resign

Under the drafted electoral plan presented to Solidarity by communist official Kazimierz Cypryniak, the government coalition of the Communist, Democratic and Peasants parties would retain about 60 percent of seats in the parliament. Opposition parties only would have the remaining 40 percent.

"The authorities say that elections will not be democratic 100 percent and we approved this principle," Janusz Onyszkiewicz, a spokesman for Solidarity, said at a news conference following the second round of debates with the government on political reforms.

Balloonist rescued

YOKOHAMA, Feb 19. (UPI): A fishing boat rescued a Japanese adventurer yesterday from the ocean where he had ditched his gondola after failing to complete the first solo trans-Atlantic balloon crossing. Japanese and US officials said.

Fumio Niwa, who embarked on Tuesday on a 4,970-mile (8,000-km) trip from Yokohama to San Diego, landed his "Toss Pacific" balloon in the ocean about 425 miles (680 km) east of Mianami-Tori Shima (southern bird island), one-third of the way towards his goal. Japanese officials said.

76 Pakistanis held

MOSCOW, Feb 19. (AP): The Somali Navy has detained 76 Pakistanis and their four fishing vessels for operating illegally in Somali territorial waters, the official Somali news agency announced today.

It said the incident occurred on Thursday when the Navy seized eight tonnes of fish after intercepting the boats near Alula.

A further 12 fishing vessels were chased out of the same area by the Navy, the report added.

Earthquake

TOKYO, Feb 19. (AP): A strong earthquake struck central and northern Japan tonight, shaking tall buildings and rattling windows in downtown Tokyo. "No damage" or "injuries" were immediately reported, the National Police Agency said.

The quake, which occurred at 9:28 pm (1228 GMT), measured 5.6 on the Richter scale and was centred 60 miles (96 kilometres) north of Tokyo in the town of Utsunomiya, the meteorological agency said. The quake shook all of northern Honshu, Japan's main island, the agency said.

Explosion

CAIRO, Feb 19. (AP): A mine exploded today in north Sinai, killing a brother and a sister and wounding five other children seriously, a police source said.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the incident took place in El Arish, capital of north Sinai. He said the mine probably dated back from either the 1967 or the 1973 Arab-Israeli wars.

Bodies recovered

PUCHONG, Malaysia, Feb 19. (Reuters): The charred bodies of four American crew members of a US Boeing 747 cargo plane which crashed into a Malaysian hill on Sunday were recovered by a local search team.

Selangor state police chief Datuk Nordin Idris said he believed there was a fifth person on board the aircraft which crashed about 12 miles (18 km) from the capital Kuala Lumpur.

Ethnic tension

MOSCOW, Feb 19. (Reuters): Armenians are still leaving their homes in Azerbaijan as ethnic tension persists in the two Soviet republics, the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda reported today.

By last week, 166,000 refugees had arrived in Armenia from Azerbaijan, the newspaper said.

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Malaysian police officers inspect the scene of the crash of a Boeing 747 cargo plane. (Reuter wirephoto)

Polisario vows to resume desert warfare

RABAT, Feb 19. (Reuter): Polisario guerrillas have threatened to resume their war with Morocco over the Western Sahara unless King Hassan meets them again within 10 days.

In a statement telexed to Reuters last night, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, a member of Polisario's executive committee, said:

"There is no doubt that if by the end of February the dialogue remains interrupted and prospects of peace are stalled, the battles will resume."

Polisario declared a ceasefire this month, saying it wished to smooth the way for formation of a Maghreb Union. The union between Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania was proclaimed in Marrakesh last week.

Sayed and other Polisario leaders held a first round of direct talks with King Hassan in early January. It was to be followed by a second session which the guerrilla movement says has been postponed indefinitely at Morocco's request.

Five die as Boeing crashes in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19. (UPI): A US-owned Boeing 747 cargo plane crashed into a hill today while attempting to land at Subang international airport, killing five American crew members.

The Flying Tiger Line Inc. aircraft burst into flames about seven miles (11 km) from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur and wreckage was strewn over a wide area, a civil aviation official said.

"I heard a loud explosion. I looked up and saw fire and smoke at the hill top," Choi said. "I dashed back to my house and told my family. A few neighbours not far away also saw the disaster," he said, adding "it was a fantastic sight."

Reporters of Bernam, Malaysia's national news agency, said "the engines, cockpit and wings of the aircraft have been destroyed."

"Pieces of wreckage were still smouldering, some T-shirts and mail were strewn all over the place," said one reporter.

The plane, which took off from Singapore early this morning, was carrying a full load of general cargo.

The US embassy said it had no information about the crash of the Boeing 747 and company officials were not immediately available for comment.

A farmer Choi Joon Hong said he was tending to his fruit trees at the hill slopes when he heard an explosion early this morning.

Tokyo prepares to hold world's biggest funeral

TOKYO, Feb 19. (UPI): The vanguard of 150 foreign envoys attending this week's funeral of Emperor Hirohito began arriving in Tokyo today for rites that will not only throw the spotlight on the mighty economic superpower but also set the stage for a whirlwind of diplomatic activity.

Billed as the biggest funeral of all time in terms of diplomatic representation, US President Bush heads a cast of 55 world leaders, 19 deputy heads of state, 11 prime ministers, 14 royals and other envoys who will spend only a fraction of their time on Friday's funeral.

Last-minute preparations are being made for a flurry of mini-summits between leaders of various nations on topics ranging from peace moves in the Middle East and Afghanistan to the

debt crisis in Latin America and Africa. Foreign Ministry sources said the funeral will be held on Saturday.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, as host, will be the busiest leader, conferring with 120 heads of state, prime ministers, foreign ministers and other envoys.

"Ten minutes is the average time for each guest," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The Japanese leader has scheduled longer meetings of 20 minutes each with Philippine President Corazon Aquino, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

Takeshita, who became the first foreign leader to meet Bush after his inauguration earlier this month, has tentatively set aside one hour and 15 minutes on Thursday for the US leader, who is making his first overseas trip.

Japanese government sources said Bush is also planning possible talks with the Soviet and other envoys.

Algeria urged to adopt Islamic laws

ALGIERS, Feb 19. (Reuter): Islamic fundamentalists have called for Algeria to switch to laws based on the Holy Quran under a proposed constitution being put to a referendum next Thursday.

In a statement carried by the official news agency APS, three leaders of the Courant Islamiste (Islamic trend) proposed the constitution establish that "Islam is the principal and only source of legislation (and) the Holy Quran is the source of the constitution."

Signed by Ahmed Sahnoun, Mahfoud Nahmeh and El Mekki Abada, the statement released

last night said parts of the proposed constitution were positive.

But it added: "Algeria is a land of Islam and jihad and that since independence 'the principal values of the Algerian nation have been abandoned.'

Tolerance
It called for sharia or Islamic law to regulate family affairs and said it was convinced President Chadli Benjedid had what it termed the necessary political courage to take the demands into consideration.

Political observers said this was probably the first time the

state-controlled Algerian media had published in full a statement by an opposition group. It appeared to presage tolerance of dissenting voices in what until now has been a one-party system.

The proposed new constitution makes Islam the state religion as before but the general tone is secular. It eliminates a previous clause which enshrined Algeria's "irreversible commitment to socialism."

One of its articles says "The right to create associations of a political nature is recognised." Analysts said this suggests that the one-party system will eventually be dropped.

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'Enemies of freedom' asked to choose war or peace

Aquino offers talks to rebels

BAGUIO, Philippines, Feb 19. (Reuter): President Corazon Aquino, asserting her government was stronger than it appeared, offered today new talks to end armed divisions within the Philippines but said she was ready to fight if they failed.

Speaking almost three years after the "people power" revolt which swept her into office, she said national reconciliation remained a dream but the country had its best prospects for peace in a quarter of a century.

Aquino said that in the three years since a popularly backed military revolt toppled former President Ferdinand Marcos, her government had reversed the country's descent towards economic collapse, political disintegration and social revolution.

It had started to build a new future and it was important to heal the wounds so that deep divisions would not be carried forward to the next generation, she said.

Speaking to graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, near Baguio, 200 km north of

Manila, she said she was ready for new talks with both the armed right and the communist insurgents.

"To the enemies of freedom, the armed opponents of our government on the left and the right, I address these words: let us sit down and try to settle our differences by talk, and if we cannot, by all means, let us do so by arms."

"But let us not infect the next generation in civil society and in the armed forces with narrow causes and partisan hatred from the past."

Aquino held peace talks with communist rebels in 1986 but ordered resumption of war against them after negotiations collapsed.

The 56-year-old President, who has survived five coup attempts, said she was stronger than she looked.

"This country, this government and this leader have more strength than appearances suggest."

"It is the character of democracy to look weak. It is the fate of its vanquished enemies to

feel its strength."

Aquino has rejected requests to help heal divisions with supporters of Marcos by allowing him to return from exile.

"Those who made the revolution may never see reconciliation completed. "For some, the wounds have been too deep to ever heal completely."

"Yet we cannot give up."

Appeal

She appealed to the 113 new graduates not to be led into supporting Marcos or right-wing dissidents within the military.

Those who sapped the strength of this country will ask you to join them in exploiting its weaknesses. Ignore them," she said.

She said all future generations of Philippine military officers would live in the shadow of the 1986 people power revolt and should guard its objectives.

"You have my orders. You know the enemy: the communist terrorist in city and barrio (village), the right-wing conspirator in our military camps and the lawless elements who seek to deny unity to our country."

"Fight them wherever they

appear and threaten our people, our work, what we are striving to make of this country."

"The battle field is everywhere. That is the nature of the threat...."

Security at the academy was tight for Aquino's visit. Four people were killed in March 1987 when a bomb exploded there a few days before she was also to address graduates. She had said the bomb was aimed at her.

On Saturday, a fire which police said might have been started by arsonists razed the 98-room Venus Park View Hotel in Baguio where many military officers and their families were staying. No one was injured.

Fire marshall Colonel Arsenio Cabadang said authorities were looking for two Australian women in whose room the fire broke out but who were out of the hotel when it started.

Military forces on the main Luzon island, including the Philippine capital, were placed on alert beginning Thursday on red alert — the maximum state of preparedness — for Aquino's trip to Baguio.

Order to kill Rushdie amounts to murder

NICOSIA, Feb 19. (AP): An Iranian newspaper said that the order to execute British novelist Salman Rushdie and the price put on his head amounted to murder.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the Persian daily Etela'at wrote that "you pay one man to kill another man is murder at a premium and not a religiously-inspired act."

Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or religious ruling on Tuesday, saying that Rushdie should be killed because his novel "The Satanic Verses" blasphemed Islam.

The IRNA report also said that Rushdie's apology "though far too short of a repentance, is generally seen as sufficient enough to warrant his pardon by the masses in Iran and elsewhere in the world."

Earlier reports by the government agency said Rushdie's statement fell short of the apology demanded by President Ali Khamenei during a Friday prayer sermon.

The IRNA report did not mention Khomeini's decision directly. But the article was an unusual challenge to actions by Iran's religious leaders based on a Khomeini ruling.

Another Tehran newspaper said today that even after being pardoned by Iran, Rushdie may be killed by either Israeli or Iraqi agents, in an move to blacken Iran.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said yesterday that Rushdie's apology might be enough to gain him a pardon from Khomeini who ordered him executed.

IRNA quoted the English-language daily Tehran newspaper Keyhan International as saying in an editorial that "President Khamenei did seem to let Rushdie off the hook."

It added that "Rushdie, often characterised as arrogant, took the opportunity to lament and say through his agent, 'I profoundly regret the distress the publication of the book has occasioned to sincere followers of Islam."

Christian leaders seek to enforce truce in East Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb 19. (Reuter): Christian leaders seeking to avert a major confrontation between militiamen and regular Army troops can hardly achieve a long-term truce, political sources say.

A committee of 25 Christian deputies and leaders of political parties met last night at the Christian Maronite Patriarchate in north-east Beirut to discuss efforts to mediate between the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and the Lebanese Army.

"The maximum this committee can achieve is to freeze the tension and avert a devastating war in Christian areas. The wounds are too deep to be healed in a short period of time," said a former Christian minister.

The raid followed the closure of several nude photographic exhibitions in the eastern city of Nanking recently. Artists said the authorities wanted to put the brakes on a new wave of artistic freedom which is taking China by storm.

Earlier yesterday officials from the legal department of Beijing's cultural office visited Cao's exhibition to tell him that members of the public had complained about his work.

One painting shows a heap of naked women below Buddhist monk-like figures and another depicts a woman dragging two men by their genitalia out of a fire.

Friends said Cao — a 26-year-old ethnic Han Chinese — had spent a lot of time in Tibet and, despite impressions to the contrary, was very sympathetic to the Himalayan region's culture and religion.

"The authorities are still not sure of the dividing line between art and pornography in China," said one avant-garde artist.

EEC set to tighten control on chemical arms

BRUSSELS, Feb 19. (Reuter): The European Economic Community is expected tomorrow to tighten export controls on chemicals used to make arms.

Diplomats said foreign ministers, at a Brussels meeting, are likely to approve the initiative, following a plea from West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for urgent action at EEC level.

The Bonn government has been deeply embarrassed by the recent revelation that West German firms helped Libya build a factory that the United States and other countries say is equipped to make chemical weapons.

Libya says the plant will produce pharmaceuticals.

EEC foreign ministers agreed in principle at an informal meeting in Madrid last week that the 12 EEC states would require exporters to seek licences before being allowed to sell abroad eight chemicals used to make arms.

Diplomats said officials had since finalised details of the measure, which was not approved when it was first proposed in 1984.

EEC states already operate chemical export controls under a wider international agreement set up in 1985. Diplomats said the latest move amounted to a slight tightening of existing procedures.

"What has happened this year has shown more rigorous enforcement is needed," said one diplomat.

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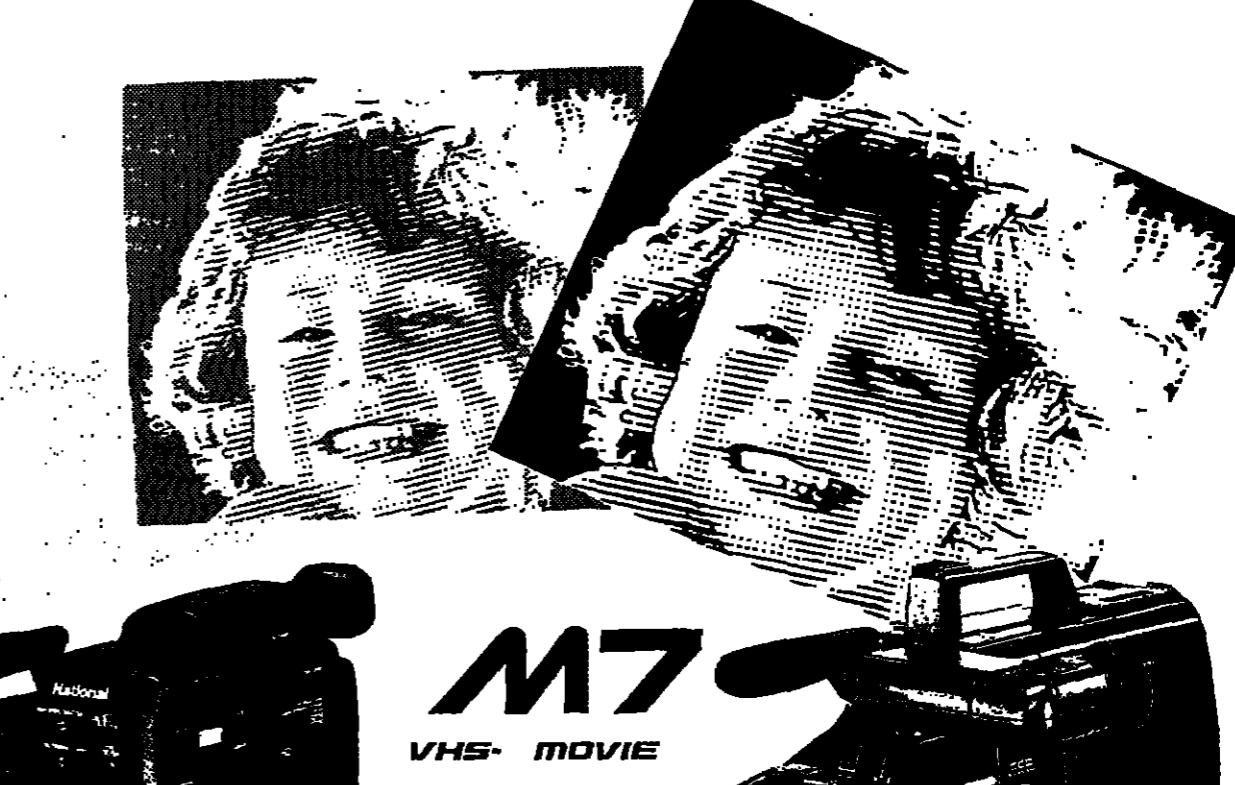
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Paediatricians graduate

DR Abdul Razzak Al Yousef Abdul Razzak, Minister of Public Health, patronised the graduation ceremony of the 12th course for paediatricians last night, according to Dr Abdullah Al Rifai, General Secretary of the Medical Specialities Institute.

Rifai said that these courses will have positive influence on health services in Kuwait.

Thirty three doctors participated in the course (among them nine Kuwaitis) which began last February and lasted a year.

Workshop

In an interview with a local daily, Rifai said that the Medical Specialities Institute will, on March 13, celebrate the graduation of the first batches of internal, surgery and family doctors.

The institute yesterday organised a workshop on the role played by health research at the health services department.

Decision makers at the Ministry of Public Health need to be enlightened on the importance of health research and its applications in order to improve health services.

A number of professors from the UAE and Kuwait, Health Ministry assistant under-secretaries, health area directors and hospital directors will also participate in the workshop.

The workshop aims at enlightening participants in developing health administration.

English-teaching symposium held

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development at the Ministry of Education Dr Rasheed Al Hamad has reaffirmed the ministry's constant efforts to develop its English curriculum.

Hamad said in an opening speech at the English-teaching symposium held in Kuwait in cooperation with the British publishers, Longmans, that the purpose of the symposium was to entertain views on the development of paedagogical means and curricula in the field of English language teaching.

Textbooks

He said that a special committee was formed two years ago to carry out specialist studies on the possibility and feasibility of developing teaching textbooks in Kuwait, derived on the latest patterns and experience in this field.

The symposium was attended by the director of the Training Centre and director of the Educational Research Centre.

Cleaners contracted

KUWAIT Municipality has contracted a local cleaning company to clean up the second area (Salimiya, Hawalli, Kumaithiya, Maidan Hawalli, Salwa, Nugra, Failaka and other islands), according to Naser Al Tuwais, an employee at the Cleanliness Department at the Municipality.

The contract costs about KD3.3 million and supervisors at the areas inspect the work and daily reports, he said.

Tuwais added that the centres also remove scrap cars from roads and public squares. They have already removed 1025 cars since Jan 1, 1988 to Feb 2, 1989.

Jordan's premier in Syria

AMMAN, Feb 19, (Reuters): Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifai left for Damascus today for talks with Syrian leaders, the state-run news agency Petra said.

It gave no reason for Rifai's previously unannounced trip, which follows the creation of a new Arab economic grouping that does not include Syria.

The Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) was proclaimed in Baghdad Thursday by leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

Drug peddlars apprehended

SECURITY forces of the Criminal Investigation Department at Firdous area arrested seven persons on charges of trading and dealing in narcotics.

CID personnel arrested three of the accused inside a tent. The other three were apprehended after a hectic car chase.

The total of 20 kilos of hashish was recovered in the operation. Both the contraband and the accused have been referred to the authorities for investigation.

Official investigated

ON a complaint filed by a citizen, the assistant director of constructions department at Sulaibikhat area has been investigated by authorities of Kuwait Municipality for using his post to obtain personal benefits.

The official was shifted to another department and subsequently was relieved of his post. A loss of 15 days salary was also levied as a penalty.

Kuwait denies resumption of flights to Iran

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (KUNA): Kuwait today denied Iranian reports that Kuwait and Iran are discussing the resumption of air flights between them.

Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Abdullah Al Ahmad announced in a press statement that the department categorically denies the report carried by the Iranian News Agency.

The agency had quoted Director of the Iranian Airlines office in Kuwait Hamad Reza Sheikh Imami as saying that Kuwait and Iran are discussing reoperating air routes between them.

Cabinet discusses Arab and international issues

KUWAIT, Feb 19, (KUNA): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, stated following the Cabinet's regular weekly session under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah that the Council of Ministers discussed a number of reports concerning Arab and international situations as well as political affairs.

The council had followed with relief the positive atmosphere which prevailed in the Arab arena, represented by the positive results of the two Arab summits held recently in Bagdad and Marrakesh, giving birth to the 'Arab Co-operation Council', grouping Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen and the 'Arab Maghreb Union' grouping Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania," Rashed said.

Success

On the occasion, he added the council expressed its sincere congratulations and best wishes of success for the Arab brothers on establishment of those two Arab groupings, which represent jointly with the Gulf Co-operation Council a strong foundation for the "Great Arab House."

The council also listened to a briefing from Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on details of the second stage of endeavour of the



Awadi (right) looks at one of the computers on display

Planning minister opens Info '89 Exhibition

By Lima Al Khalafawi

DR Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the minister of planning yesterday opened Kuwait's 8th Info '89 Exhibition at Mishref International Fairground.

The exhibition focused on a complete range of computers, hard and software, and other related computer facilities for office automation were on display.

Display

A complete range of new copiers were also introduced. Latest fax models from Xerox were on display such as the Xerox 7007 and 7017. The latest in heavy duty copiers totally automated with circulating document handler and one line finisher capable of 62 copies per minute was displayed in the form of the Xerox 1065.

A wide range of computer out-



Sheikh Jaber Mubarak

He said that the department wishes to affirm that those reports are baseless.

3 British minehunters to return home after clearing sea lane

DUBAI, Feb 19, (Reuters): Three British minehunters will return home in eight days after clearing mines from the sea lane opposite the United Arab Emirates, a British Navy spokesman said today.

He said the three ships — Chiddington, Cottesmore and Berkeley — would leave on Feb 27 after arriving 18 months ago to join Britain's armilla squadron of warships in the southern Gulf.

The Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) is due to meet in Kuwait that day to discuss the threat of mines in the Gulf.

The eight-nation group is dis-

cussing ways to remove the mines sown during the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq.

Minehunters from several European navies, most of which have now gone, had been clearing the southern part of the Gulf.

The US Navy is still searching the section north of Bahrain.

Most of the mines are near the coasts of Iran and Iraq and naval experts in the Gulf say there is little chance of clearing them properly unless Tehran and Bagdad pinpoint their positions.

The British spokesman said the remaining threat to shipping near the United Arab Emirates would be if a rogue mine from the north slipped its moorings and drifted south.

Iraq, Jordan ratify new economic bloc agreement

BAGHDAD, Feb 19, (Reuters):

The Iraqi leadership yesterday ratified the creation of a new economic bloc linking the country with Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen. Baghdad television added.

In Amman, the Jordanian cabinet had endorsed ACC's founding document.

Meanwhile, King Hussein ordered yesterday the release of all administrative detainees as part of national reunions over the creation of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

The television said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein signed the ratification document at a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council, the ruling Baath Party regional leadership and the cabinet.

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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Young Artists Exhibition

UNTIL Feb 23: An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Kuwaiti artists in Kuwait will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Saleh gallery. It will be open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills, will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, Mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery

FEB 21: An exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam opens at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghaniyah Bldg, Al Soor St. It will be open from 5 to 8 pm.

MUSIC

Piano Recital

FEB 22: Pianist Anthony Peebles will give a recital at the Kuwait International Hotel, Terrace Room. For reservations contact the hotel.

French Music Concert

FEB 20: French pianist Roselyne Massel-Lecocq and soprano Francoise Carre will present a selection of classical and contemporary music at a concert at the Meridien Hotel. Tickets available at Meridien Hotel, Business Centre, Voltaire Institute and French Cultural Centre.

EXHIBITIONS

Islamic Coins in Sweden

Until Feb 23: An exhibition of Islamic Coins in Sweden open at the Dar Al Aithar Al Islamiyah (Islamic Arts Museum); from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm.

Modern Kuwait

Feb 26 - March 8: The Kuwait University's Arts and Culture Department will hold a photographic exhibition on "Modern Kuwait" at the College of Commerce, Adeliya. It will be open on Feb 26 at 10 am.

Video films will be shown during the exhibition, which coincides with the Kuwait National Day celebration. The film schedule is as follows:

Feb 26 (10 am and 12 noon): Kuwait: The Road to Progress

Feb 27 (9 am and 11 am): Kuwait: My Country

Feb 28 (9 am and 11 am): Computers in Kuwait

March 1 (9 am and 11 am): Development and the Future

March 6 (9 am and 11 am): Kuwait: Highlights

March 7 (9 am and 11 am): Kuwait: One Family

March 8 (9 am and 11 am): Industrial Development in Kuwait

The documentaries will be shown at the Arts and Culture Department, College of Commerce, Adeliya.

LECTURES

Vikings and Arabs

A series of lectures will be given by a visiting Swedish-Arabist Professor Bengt Knutson. The programme is as follows:

FEB 20 (6 pm): A talk on Arabic and Islamic Studies at Swedish Universities, Faculty Members Club.

FEB 21 (6 pm): A lecture on Swedish-Arabic Encounter and Poetry, Faculty Members Club.

SOCIAL

Bangladesh Martyr's Day

Feb 21: The Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait will observe the Martyr's Day (Shaheed Dibosh) from 9 am at the embassy premises in Jabiya. A week-long exhibition of Bengali books written by Bangladeshi writers will be opened by Ambassador K.M. Sheshabuddin.

Feb 23 (6 pm): The Bangladeshi Association will hold a discussion followed by a cultural programme to mark the Martyr's Day. All Bangladeshis are invited.

Dance Recital FEB 22: Dr Padma Subramanyam, a noted dancer and scholar of Indian classical dance, will give a lecture at 7.30 pm. It will be followed by public reception. Only those holding an entry pass for any of the following dance shows will be allowed to attend.

Feb 23 (6.30 pm): Dr Padma Subramanyam will give a Bharata Natya (dance-ballet) recital.

Feb 25 (6 pm): Dr Padma Subramanyam will give a solo-recital called "Jaya Moksham," danced to Tchaikovsky's music.

The dance show is part of the Nehru Centenary celebration. Both performances and the lecture will be held at the IAC, Funaiatees. For entry passes contact 3904817.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

African safari in a concrete jungle

By Fathima Ahmed

COULD it be an African safari — a trip across the wild, wild animal sanctuaries of Kenya? The opening sequence of K.C. Bokadia's *Main Tera Dushman* (I'm your Enemy) makes you believe it is, at least as long as the credits roll, dramatically interrupted with music, the beat of drums and the roar of lions. Maybe, it is about poaching. Maybe not.

If you trust the Hindi filmmakers to come up with the weirdest ideas and plots, you'll never be disappointed. They let their imagination run wild — like the wild trees in the jungle and come up with such amazing feats performed both by man and beast that you are left guessing who is the more intelligent of them all, for example the elephant or Kishan (Jackie Shroff) in *Main Tera Dushman*.

Each moment makes you feel hopeless and you wonder: is Jaya Prada a better actress or the Mother Elephant, who makes a dying statement (no peace even in death) and leaves her son, Ramu, in Jaya and Kishan's safe hands.

The ma-beta (mother-son) relationship in films always makes you uneasy, and when the same emotions are transferred to "mother" Jaya and son Ramu-the-elephant, the results are, to put it mildly, corny. Ramu's tears never dry and the watchful Jaya tells Ramu: "If you don't eat Ramu, we won't."

Ramu saves Jaya from a would-be-rapist's clutches. Now, if this doesn't amaze you.



Sridevi looks seductive in *Main Tera Dushman*.
wait for the best of them all: he is literate and can read. How else would he spot the Bombay sign on a bus and follow it. Perhaps, he made an elephantine effort.

One barely got over the trauma of the "kute ki meher-baizyan" — a dog's heroic performance in *Teri Meherbaizyan*. Remember the canine who drove a jeep and took

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EVERYBODY thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself — Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist (1828-1910).

Outrage over 'The Satanic Verses'

Latest challenge to Benazir's government

By Bryan Wilder

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, (AP): The sudden burst of rage in Pakistan over Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" has assumed political dimensions that many analysts see as a challenge to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's young government.

Ayaz Amir, a respected Pakistani political columnist, said the anti-Rushdie uproar has served as the biggest political embarrassment to date for Benazir and her Pakistan People's Party.

The latest events in Islamabad have done more to expose the PPP's soft underbelly than anything else since its assumption of power," Ayaz wrote in the Karachi newspaper Dawn.

Benazir's party emerged as the nation's largest in elections last November, gaining almost twice as many votes as the eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) but still falling short of an absolute majority in parliament.

Her PPP government came to power with the support of some small parties and independents. They, like the opposition, profess unwavering Muslim faith, but Benazir has shunned Islamization.

Benazir's lack of an overall majority has led to a series of political scrapes with the IDA, the most notable being the PPP's campaign to repeal a constitutional amendment that gives the president broad discretionary powers.

Popularity

For the prime minister's conservative and hard-line religious opponents, a strong presidency is an effective way of keeping Benazir's personal popularity in check.

The uproar over "The Satanic Verses" may have served as a catalyst to Benazir supporters.

Devout Muslims say the novel by the Indian-born author, a British citizen who lives in London, offends their faith by satirizing the Prophet Mohammed (PBHU) and by implying that Islam is not the world's only true religion.

Pakistan, India and several other countries banned "The Satanic Verses" last year. Benazir's party and its right-wing opposition agreed on a parliamentary resolution upholding the ban as recently as January.

But last Sunday, Muslim youths led by religious leaders and political opponents of the PPP converged on a US cultural

Literary pyres

Religion behind banning of books

By Michael Miller

NEW YORK, (Reuter): Salman Rushdie is the latest in a long line of authors whose books have gone up in flames or been banned, including such classic writers as Charles Darwin and James Joyce.

Others, like Rushdie who was sentenced to death by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini, have had their lives threatened as well.

"Book burning is the most powerful form of review," said Geoffrey Stone, dean of the University of Chicago's Law School.

He said the action of the Muslims who burned Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" in England was "much, much more than an expression of dislike. By burning the book they were cleansing themselves of a disease."

Deny

Muslims the world over have condemned "The Satanic Verses" as blaspheming the Prophet Mohammed (PBHU) a charge the Indian-born English author denies. A senior Iranian cleric offered up to \$3 million reward for anyone who killed Rushdie.

Throughout history, religion has often been behind the banning and burning of books, and even of their authors.

Written and their books were burned during the Spanish inquisition in the 16th century to stamp out heresy and eradicate Judaism and Protestantism. In medieval Italy, authors also perished for offending religious leaders.

It was only 24 years ago that

Coercion to enforce birth control

China plans to crack down on officials

By Ann Scott Tyson

BEIJING: In an effort to improve the image of its population programme abroad, China plans to crack down on officials who use coercion to enforce birth control, according to a Western diplomat.

The government plans to formally investigate and publicly punish officials involved in family-planning abuses such as forced abortion and infanticide, the diplomat says. Punishments could range from expulsion from the Communist Party and government posts to jail sentences, he says.

China's assurances that it will take sterner, public action against reported abuses came during meetings between Chinese family-planning officials and Naifs Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) last week, the diplomat says.

Chinese officials are investigating cases of abuses and planning to establish an administrative mechanism to punish

those involved," the diplomat says. She says some past cases of abuses reported in the Chinese press have been publicly "ignored" by the government.

Beijing has strongly denied past allegations that its population-control policy includes compulsory abortion or sterilization, describing such coercive measures as isolated acts by local officials violating state regulations.

Half

Reports of forced abortions in China led the United States in 1985 to limit and then halt its sizable funding for the UNFPA, which runs a multimillion dollar aid programme in China. UNFPA officials say they carefully monitor the organization's aid to China to ensure that none goes to fund abortions.

The UNFPA recently formulated a new, \$57-million aid programme for China for the period 1990-94, which will be presented for approval by the US and other nations at a meeting of the UNFPA governing council in June. Aided by the UNFPA, China is increasing its contraceptive

production, maternal and child-health programmes in poor areas, and research in family planning and demographics.

"The Chinese need to counter their negative image," said Sadik during a visit to Beijing recently. She said she is hopeful that Washington will resume funding of the UNFPA. "There is a new opportunity, a new administration," she said, adding that President Bush had been supportive of UNFPA efforts in the past.

However, she cited the example of China's recent decision to impose compulsory sterilizations or abortions on thousands of severely retarded people in some regions as "things the Chinese should not do" if they hope to win broader support overseas.

Beijing's effort to improve the image of its "one couple, one child" birth-control policy comes amid rising concerns of Chinese leaders over a 1 billion-plus population that threatens to burgeon out of control.

China's population, which is expected to top the 1.1 billion mark by April, has been expand-

ing at a far faster pace than officials had planned.

Late last year, Chinese Family-Planning Minister Peng Peiyun announced that the long-term goal of holding the population to 1.2 billion at the year 2000 was unrealistic. She said that 1.2 billion might be a plausible target.

But last month brought even higher projections. In a front-page article entitled "Population Explosion Closing in," the official Economic Daily reported that, by conservative estimates, the population will surpass 1.32 billion by the end of the century, meaning a staggering 120 million more Chinese than planned for.

"There's no way the population is going to stabilize at 1.2 billion in the year 2000. Maybe 1.3 billion to 1.5 billion," Sadik said.

The economic, biological, and social consequences for China of more rapid population growth are potentially disastrous.

For example, China now feeds 20 per cent of the globe's population with only 2 per cent of total farmland. But each year, as

China's encroaching population grows by about 15 million people, its arable land shrinks 5 per cent, Economic Daily said.

Put more broadly, each year China's new population consumes 20 per cent of the increase in gross national product, half the added output of meat and foodstuffs, and 40 per cent of newly built housing, the paper said.

Modernization

"If our population increase greatly surpasses the target... modernization will be out of reach," it warned.

Several factors have added to the urgency and difficulty of China's current population control effort.

● China is entering the third baby boom of its communist history as the older members of a generation of 360 million baby boomers born from 1962 to 1975 enter peak reproductive years. Officials expect the boom to last until the turn of the century.

● Greater social mobility arising from market-driven economic reforms has hindered official monitoring of pregnancy.

and birth. China's transient population, negligible during Maoist times, has mushroomed to 50 million as a vast surplus farming population quits the land. Labelled "birth guerrillas," the transients shift from place to place evading population controls and producing millions of "black children," unregistered offspring who are ineligible for schooling, subsidies and food rations.

● Looser social restraints have also led to a rise in teen-age pregnancy and marriage before the legal age of 20 for women and 22 for men.

According to official statistics, last year about 2.5 million teenagers became pregnant.

● Greater economic opportunity for Chinese families has given couples an incentive to bear more children, while rising prosperity has allowed them to pay state fines imposed on extra offspring. Three and more children are common in rural families, where farmers follow the popular adage: "More sons, more wealth."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Winnie Mandela lands herself in the soup

By Laurinda Keys

JOHANNESBURG, (AP): Three years ago, anti-apartheid leaders launched a campaign to promote black activist Winnie Mandela as "the mother of the nation" and a symbol of resistance to government repression.

Since then, her image has been tarnished by a series of controversies over her lifestyle, public statements and involvement with a group of youths who have been accused of crimes by the police and the black community.

In the past few weeks, the wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela has been linked with alleged beatings of black activists, disappearances and the death of a 14-year-old boy. During this time, those who promoted Winnie in February 1986 have been silent.

The government, which isolated and banned her for nearly 23 years, has run several television news broadcasts on her troubles, quoting reports by a press corps that in the past was relatively tolerant of Winnie's sometimes controversial behaviour.

Discredited

As far as the government is concerned, the most effective way of discrediting Winnie may have been its decision in 1986 to lift the ban on quoting her and remove all restrictions on her ways.

At about the time Mubarak spoke, the state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram ran a series of young men who congregate at her home under the name of the Mandela United soccer team. She formed the team in 1986, saying the youths were getting into trouble and she wanted to get them off the streets. They have played few soccer games.

For two years her name has been popping up in court cases involving charges of assault, murder and robbery by people alleged to have stayed at her house or used her car and van. Police occasionally have announced they were investigating charges against her, but have never brought her to court.

Disassociated

The government, without explaining why, lifted the ban on quoting her shortly after she made one of the most controversial pronouncements of her life.

At a rally in the township of Kagiso, Winnie said: "With our boxes of matches, and our necklaces, we shall liberate this country."

The exiled leadership of the African National Congress disassociated itself from the statement. But her declaration was seen by the government as proof that the ANC supported the grisly method of murder with a burning tire that was being used

in South African papers since 1975, but suddenly she was at almost every major rally, wearing ANC colours, her fist raised, supporting the nationwide anti-government protests and making a series of radical statements.

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Egypt counters extremists with iron fist and persuasion

By Nejla Sammaka

CAIRO, (AP): The Egyptian government is combining harsh police tactics with gentle persuasion by Muslim holy men to choke off stirrings of religious extremism among the young.

Outbursts by Muslim militants occur only sporadically in Egypt, where most of the 90 per cent Muslim population is devout but non-violent.

But many Egyptians have been alarmed by a series of clashes that began last August in three areas, resulting in deaths of four civilians and two police officers.

President Hosni Mubarak has called the troublemakers "youth without proper guidance." But police reaction has indicated deeper concern, as officer swoop down on mosques and neighbourhoods, rounding up thousands on suspicion of being activists.

Since then, it has been repeated several times on TV. Televised soccer matches, with their large, young and male audiences, often have been followed by clips of the Al-Azhar session, interspersed with interviews by young people extolling the merits of the ulema's words.

Radio and newspapers likewise have given wide coverage to the subject.

Egypt's ulema have wielded much influence for centuries. They spread their views mainly in Friday sermons that give huge mosque crowds guidance on the Holy Quran and sharia and also on family planning, trade, foreign policy or other worldly issues.

But fundamentalist critics such as politician Farag Foda consider it unwise to use the ulema to fight extremism.

"The government will win partially in the short run," said Foda, a Muslim whose outspoken views sometimes elicit threatening letters from religious extremists.

"But in the long run, it will give legitimacy to the Holy Quran... instead of the constitution," as the basis of government, he said.

The New Year's message was the first by non-government clerics on the sensitive issue in which the government tries to appear firm yet pious.

But in recent weeks the government's top religious leaders, the minister of religious endowments and the grand mufti, made extensive appearances in mosques, praying and preaching on the wrong-headedness of violence to achieve religious goals.

In the appeal, popular Sheikh Mohammed Metwally El Shaarawy, a Muslim preacher speaking for the eight ulema, condemned violence by fundamentalists opposed to modern movies, music and social mixing of sexes.

He advised the faithful that Allah expects earthly rulers to be obeyed and will guide them to make necessary changes in the system without force or pressure from the governed. One Muslim should not brand another Muslim an infidel, as some have called government leaders, El Shaarawy said.

"We must be patient in awaiting full implementation" of sharia, the 1,350-year-old system of ethics and laws by which Muslims are supposed to live, he said.

The government claims 90 per cent of Egypt's French-based legal system already conforms with the sharia.

"The ulema agree that changing that which is un-Islamic is the duty of the ruler," El Shaarawy said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1437 — Scotland's King James I is murdered in Scottish city of Perth.

1570 — Lord Leonard defeats Leonard Dacre's rebel army, ending northern rebellion in England.

1631 — German Protestant princes form alliance with Sweden's King Gustavus II.

1789 — King Gustavus III introduces pact of unity and security in Sweden.

1833 — Russian ships enter Bosphorus on way to Constantinople to aid Turkey against Egypt.

1928 — Britain recognises independence of Trans-Jordan.

1942 — Japanese invade island of Bali in Dutch East Indies during World War II.

1969 — Disturbances break out in Nyasaland.

1962 — Astronaut John H. Glenn junior becomes first American to orbit earth.

1964 — Morocco and Algeria sign accord to end border conflict which resulted in troop clashes.

1967 — Indonesia's President Sukarno surrenders all executive power to General Suharto, keeping only the title of president.

1973 — Laos government and communist-led Pathet Lao agree on pact to end warfare.

1975 — Greek Cypriot government calls on United Nations to fix deadline for withdrawal of 40,000 Turkish troops from that island.

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Married bliss? Not if you're royal

By Judy Byrne

The stress of married life can harm your health — and if you are a royal the dangers are doubled.

There are special strains that go with life in the shadow of the throne.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana have had their problems, like many a young couple adjusting to reality when the honeymoon is over. And they had to learn about being married while their life was constantly on the front pages.

Princess Anne and Mark Phillips, too, have had to live with rumours and public speculation, as well as his and her jobs that keep them both on the move round the world.

Princess Margaret's marriage ended in divorce and she has failed to find happiness again. Her romance with Peter Townsend was a casualty of the royal restrictions on the choice of a partner that can kill a relationship before it is given a chance.

Then there is Princess Michael of Kent, who must have wished at times that the man with whom she moved mountains to be allowed to marry had not been a cousin of the Queen's.

Strange

And the Duchess of York's strange behaviour following her sailor husband from port to Australian port while a nanny was left holding the new baby back home could have been fuelled by a fear of losing him if he felt he was no longer being put first.

For the partner who marries into royalty there could be the difficulty that their partner, brought up in a Palace by deferential servants, does not have the textbook training for the give-and-take of marriage.

The Duchess' obvious determination to be a model wife could have been fuelled by her own family experience. She comes from a broken home herself, with the classic child-of-divorce dilemma of feeling torn between two much-loved parents who no longer love one another.

She also went into the marriage older than her sister-in-law the Princess of Wales

Adjusting to married life is not easy. And if you happen to be a member of the British royal family, constantly in the public gaze, those troubles are doubled.



Prince and Princess Michael: series of scandals have made the last 10 years of their marriage a testing time

and forewarned that divorce was not for her. Royals are expected to stay married.

But if Princess Diana's youth may have made her unrealistically optimistic at the start, it also made her an apt and willing learner. And highly eligible. She was an aristocratic accustomed to being in the royal circle, attractive and with the potential to turn into a real beauty, and to whom the Prince was madly attracted.

Prince Charles' love life for years had involved a succession of women who either proved unsuitable for the job of Queen or because they were older, were more acutely aware of the restrictions that royal marriage would impose on them — and unwilling to accept them.

But if youth was one of Lady

Diana Spencer's plus-points as a royal bride, it also meant an age gap of 13 years.

That could mean little for many married couples. But Lady Diana's lack of worldly experience made her a young twenty while Prince Charles was a prematurely middle-aged mid-thirties. The real difference was like a generation gap.

And the differences in the interests of the pop-mad Princess and opera-loving Prince, between Diana who loves TV soap operas and Charles the bookish intellectual, is enormous. It was not a formula for an easy marriage.

But the Prince and Princess have gradually worked out a pattern in which they follow their own interests.

He fishes off Ireland. She goes to soak up the sun with her mother and sisters.

He sloshes about in Wellington boots with a gun in the damp, grey countryside of Balmoral or Sandringham. She shops in London and launches with girlfriends at smart restaurants.

If it is not a Mills and Boon style romantic marriage, it is not a write-off either. Their sons, Princes William and Harry, are a deep bond.

Lowest ebb for them was the summer of 1987 when the couple spent more time than ever apart, fuelling speculation that their marriage was on the rocks. The Prince spent seven weeks in Scotland without his wife and family.

The time they spent apart is also a source of constant speculation about the relationship of Captain Mark Phillips, who has an equestrian business empire of his own, and Princess Anne, who travels so tirelessly for the Save The Children Fund.

Last year the Princess was at the top of the Royal Family's work league for the second year running, with 665 engagements and just three weeks off.

Shortly after Christmas she went on holiday with her husband and children for the first time in two years. They had just one week on the ski slopes.

Figurehead

For the Princess has turned what could be just a figurehead job as President of the Save The Children Fund into a serious career. And one she does brilliantly, with a tough professionalism that has earned her the admiration of both field workers and head office administrators.

The Princess, who insisted on marrying a commoner — her mother would willingly have elevated him to ensure that her first grandchildren were not plain Mr Peter and Miss Zara Phillips — is aware that she has been "a huge disappointment" for not living up to the fairy tale Princess image.

She says: "It's impractical to go around in life dressed in a long white dress and a crown."

It is not her style, either. She is happiest down on the farm in Wellington boots mucking out



Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips: their marriage and the time they spend apart is a source of constant speculation

the horses.

Her marriage, too, has lacked the fairy tale element. But she and her horseman husband have managed to hack along in adjacent saddles side by side for most of the 15 years they have been wed when they are in the same country at the same time.

But the boat has been rocked by outbreaks of rumour — like the time her former bodyguard, Detective Sergeant Peter Cross, who was sacked, offered to sell the story of their "special relationship".

Mark Phillips was eventually stung into replying to that. He dismissed it as "pure fantasy" and admitted it was "hurtful", too. But being royal means constantly being under scrutiny.

The Los Angeles Olympics, for which the couple stayed in separate hotels, started up the gossip, too.

Silence

Once again Phillips was unable to contain himself in the usual dignified royal silence. Suggestions that the marriage was on the rocks were "absolute nonsense" he said. He had to be with the rest of the television team for whom he was commentator.

Princess Margaret is the member of the family who has paid the highest price in personal happiness for being born so close to the throne. For she was forbidden to marry Group Captain Peter Townsend, the divorcee who was her with whom she was madly in love.

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Princess Margaret and her ex-husband Lord Snowdon: she has had to pay a high price for being born so close to the throne

wig. Her father was accused of having a Nazi past. She wrote a book, and was accused of plagiarism.

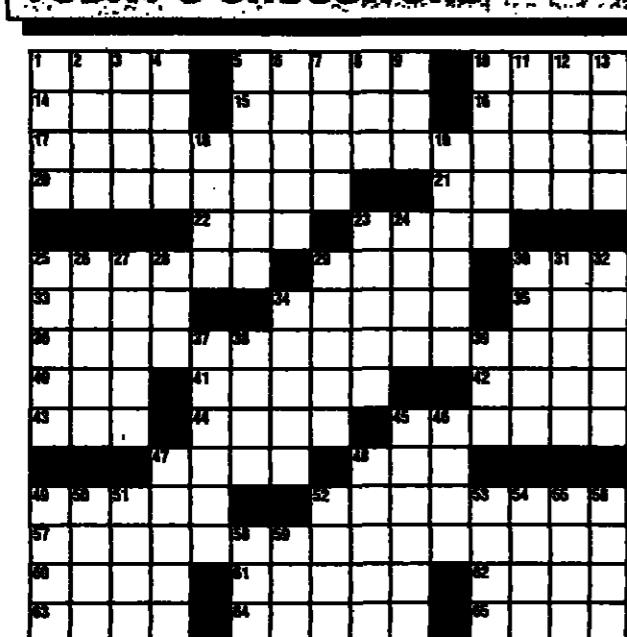
Their tenth wedding anniversary last year marked the end of one of the most troubled decades of royal marriage in history. They have survived it.

But they must have wondered, as must the other royals who have been down the same rocky road, if the path of true love runs smoother outside royal circles.



Prince Charles and Princess Diana: constantly on the front pages

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Bean town? "barrel"
 5 Car part
 10 Turn
 14 City in Camus' "The Plague"
 15 High house
 16 Enjoying the QE2
 17 Home-based enterprise
 20 Desk feature
 21 Requires
 22 USNA grad
 23 Soviet press agency
 25 Chairwoman
 29 Dover delicacy
 30 Arab garment
 33 Wading bird
 34 Paul Scott subject
 35 Govt. advisory board
 36 Edith Wharton opus
 40 Little one
 41 Notions
 42 Staff symbol
 43 Mos. and mos.
 44 Oliver's title
 45 Transfixed
 47 Clamping device
 48 Long time
 49 "Yeomen of the Guard" role
 52 Describing a doting husband
 57 Bulwark
 60 Bird's crop
 61 Mother-of-pearl
 62 Ontario tribe member
 63 Layers
 64 Mystery writer's award
 65 "For — jolly good fellow"
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Hormone associated with kick, drive, ambition

Iron ladies: just what makes them tick?

By Amit Roy

THE prime minister of the United Kingdom reacted with mock indignation recently when she was called "the only man in her cabinet".

The compliment, for it was intended thus, was paid to Margaret Thatcher by her hosts at the Indian High Commission in London when she unveiled a bust of Indira Gandhi, the assassinated prime minister of India.

It was recalled that Indira, too, had dominated her male colleagues in the way that Thatcher does and had similarly been dubbed the only man in her cabinet. Professing not to be flattered, Thatcher said that the very assumption of greater male strength was "outrageous".

She may have a point. Her suggestion that a woman politician is often able to summon reserves of mental strength not available to a man appears to be borne out by the findings of British doctors and psychologists.

Hormone

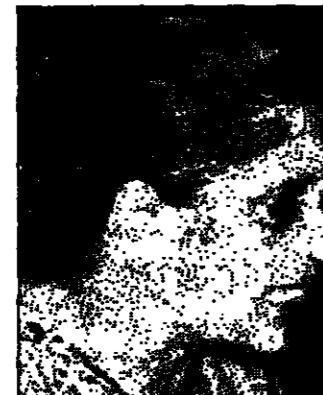
In particular, a hormone called noradrenaline has just been identified as being the likely source of motivation in politically ambitious women by British doctors.



Benazir Bhutto



Corazon Aquino



Sirimavo Bandaranaike



Indira Gandhi



Sheikh Hasina



Khaleda Zia

The best example is Pakistan, where the execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto catapulted his daughter, Benazir, 35, into politics, and last year into the post of prime minister.

Now, Bandaranaike's daughter, Chandrika, 43, has assumed the chairmanship of Sri Lanka's left-wing People's Party to replace her a/c/ or politician husband, Vijaya Kumaratunga, murdered last year by terrorists.

The first woman to become prime minister was Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 72, in Sri Lanka in 1960, shortly after the assassination of her husband, Solomon, the prime minister.

Benazir, in turn, likes to compare herself with President Corazon Aquino, 56, of the Philippines, who entered politics after her husband, Benigno, was shot dead at Manila airport in 1983.

Both Benazir and Corazon are female-dominated. The former, in particular, is a good match for your skin type and body chemistry, or factors as varied as your surroundings, the season, your age or mood can make a fragrance wrong for the moment. To keep your fragrance fresh, keep these factors in mind.

Just as your mind tunes out a repetitive sound, your senses can be dulled by a scent you wear day after day, leading to fragrance 'burnout'. A fragrance might not be a good match for your skin type and body chemistry, or factors as varied as your surroundings, the season, your age or mood can make a fragrance wrong for the moment. To keep your fragrance fresh, keep these factors in mind.

first scent will always alter those that come after it. Spray on your lower forearm and wait fifteen minutes to make a final choice.

A change of season

In summer, scents evaporate more quickly, and your fragrance also has to compete with other odours in the air.

You may need to choose a slightly more concentrated fragrance or reapply it more often. Conversely, in winter, fragrances last longer and

you're indoors, so apply fragrance more sparingly. We also tend to associate certain scents with the seasons.

"Warm" scents like musk and cinnamon smell well-suited to winter (for example, Genny by Colonial), while lighter floral and citrus scents evoke spring and summer.

The time of your life

As you grow older and your self-image changes, the kind of fragrance you choose changes

In Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed, 41, the principal opposition leader, continues to work from the house in Dhaka, the capital, where her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the nation's founder, was assassinated.

The other main opposition leader in Bangladesh is Khaleda Zia, who entered politics after her husband, General Ziaur Rahman, died in an Army coup.

In Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, 43, an Oxford academic married to an Englishman, returned home last year to become secretary-general of the new opposition party. Her father, General Aung San, was a nationalist who was assassinated in 1947.

Complex

There are dynamic and other complex factors to explain each succession, but taken collectively the women do appear to be part of a new phenomenon. But why hasn't it been evident in the West? Why, for example, didn't Jacqueline Kennedy show any political ambition?

Carruthers says American women suffer excessive stress from supporting their husband's political career. "It has been disclosed that Kitty Dukakis has a drink problem. Betty Ford had cancer.

Dr James Thompson, a senior London University psychology lecturer, at the Middlesex hospital, has been analysing how children are affected by traumas such as the violent death of a parent. He has discovered that this often provokes a child to develop latent skills.

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In talking about Indira, Thatcher was uncharacteristically emotional.

Thatcher said: "I like to think that in a very special way, she and I had something in common. We spent many hours together discussing political matters and exchanging personal experiences. The position of a head of government is always and inevitably a lonely one, and for me it has been lonelier without Mrs Gandhi."

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Negotiating a passage in India: a group of naturalists on a coracle glide silently through the water

Keeping an eye on the tiger

By Pearson Phillips

THE best day began at 5 am with strong, dark bed-tea brought to the veranda by the servants. If that sounds like a bit of Kipling that is just as it should be.

We were in a place called Kabini, which had once been the Maharajah of Mysore's hunting lodge, or one of his hunting lodges. The dawn mist hung in the forest as we drove to the lake. Spotted deer took off into the undergrowth. An elephant trumpeted.

The purpose of the early start was a coracle trip. As the Welsh discovered, coracles are useful for swirling down fast, boulder-strewn rivers.

The riverside tribes in this part of southern India had adopted them for the same reason. An irrigation dam has now turned the river into a reservoir, drowning part of the forest. But they still take to the water by coracle. It is an ideally discreet form of transport from which to watch birds and animals.

At first, though, we could watch nothing. White mist covered the water. We were lost in it, as though suspended in cloud. Occasional tree stumps loomed out of the vapour, then the sun burned off the mist and suddenly the place was full of bird life.

Count

I know it isn't done to count. But I was able to tick off 53 varieties in my copy of *The Book of India* by Jim Ali. This was mostly thanks to a jungle genius called Sunder, who knew what to look for and where to look for it. He later gave me his card, which reads "Sunder Raj - Naturalist." He stood in the coracle, delivering immaculate guidance: "Tree-stump, 11

An ideally discreet way of watching bird and animal life in India is on a coracle.

o'clock, that's a grey-headed fishing eagle...clump of bamboo to the left of it, that's a chestnut-headed bee-eater...on dead branch right of that, that's white-breasted kingfisher..." Then the animals began to appear. We floated silently offshore, watching groups of elephant, with calves, emerging from the bamboo, nervous sambar deer, parties of wild pig, a herd of buffalo. A tiger, perhaps? No luck.

Tigers were what had brought our party to India in the first place. Our safari was organised by the wildlife charity Zoo Check, founded by Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers, stars of the film *Born Free*. Their purpose is to keep an eye on the conditions of animals kept in zoos and circuses. One of their most celebrated coups was to rescue six unwanted tigers from a circus van in Madras and have them shipped to a sanctuary in India.

Compromise

Virginia, gentle but doggedly dedicated, was leading our expedition. She took us to see "her" tigers, now living in a 15-acre walled enclosure in the Bannerghatta wildlife park near Bangalore. Being circus bred they could never be released into the wild. Even with veterinary care, one had succumbed to trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) to which the local wildlife acquire immunity. "It is a compromise," says Virginia. "But it was better than having them put down."

In southern India everything to do with wildlife conservation

conservation can be a tourist asset.

The Nagarhole ("snake-river") National Park south of Mysore is one of these. It is a sanctuary of 572 square kilometres of forest and scrubby swamp. This is, of course, quite unlike viewing game in the sweeping, open plains of east Africa.

There is always a problem seeing anything in a forest. But in India, labour is plentiful. Twice yearly the parks department recruits gangs of men with pangas to cut a swathe through the underbrush up to 100 yards on each side of the forest paths.

Successful

But most successful of all was an afternoon spent in one of Nagarhole's observation towers, built high up in the tree canopy near a water hole. The forest had been cleared from four strips which radiated out from the tower.

The animals were unaware of our presence. Instead of reacting to us, they were reacting to each other. We could study their behaviour over a period of time. Two deer walked cautiously, looking left and right, freezing at a sound or a scent. A family of wild boar shepherded the young, with the males scouting ahead and closing in to provide a bodyguard through the dangerous places.

But still no tigers (though I saw a leopard from the seat of a bus travelling to the park). The big cats were there somewhere, and flourishing. At a count in 1973 there were 11. At the last count, in 1984, the figure had risen to 54.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

South Korea to lift import curbs on 350 items

SEOUL, Feb 19, (AP): South Korea will lift non-tariff restrictions on imports of 350 products such as pharmaceuticals, medicinal herbs and farm seeds next month, officials said today.

Administrative or procedural restrictions on another 1,630 items will be eased, officials of the Economic Planning Board said in a meeting yesterday.

The lifting of the restrictions is aimed at accelerating imports and opening up South Korean markets to foreign goods, they said.

It also comes 10 days before the arrival in Seoul of US President George Bush, who is expected to urge South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo to import more US goods.

Restrictions

Critics, however, have called for cautiousness in easing import restrictions, pointing out that rapid liberalisation could fuel anti-Americanism.

On Monday, some 15,000 militant farmers staged violent protests in Seoul to protest imports of foreign products, among other things.

ADB to boost financial aid to Indonesia

JAKARTA, Feb 19, (OPECNA): The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) will increase its financial aid to Indonesia to \$600 million this year from \$50 million in 1988.

According to ADB vice-president Gunther Schultz, the bank will give special priority to agricultural, social and educational projects.

Decline

Schultz said Indonesia had managed to overcome a difficult economic situation following the decline in oil prices a few years ago.

The ADB official, who was received by President Suharto on Monday, said as Indonesia was repaying its debts on schedule, the country's donors remained willing to continue their development assistance.

Talks on future of Latin lending agency hang in balance

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (Reuter): Three years of high-stakes haggling over a capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank are reaching a critical juncture, with officials predicting a gloomy future for the lending agency if talks during the next month fail.

Latin American governments, which are already transferring more money to the IADB than they get in new loans, will grow disillusioned with the bank and may even halt repayments if they see no prospect of stepped-up lending, some officials fear.

"Right now we are part of the debt problem, not the solution," said one official who declined to be identified.

Predicament

The IADB's predicament can be seen in preliminary data for 1988. Reflows rose to between \$500 million and \$600 million from \$219 million in 1987, the first year in which the bank was a net recipient of funds from the region it was set up to serve 30 years ago.

The IADB was set up in 1959 to provide development funds for Central and Latin American countries.

Making matters worse, only \$1.6 billion in new loans were approved last year, down from \$2.36 billion in 1987 and a peak of \$3.57 billion in 1984. With the approval rate falling, the cash flow problem can only get worse, officials say.

Unless these trends are reversed, Latin governments struggling with heavy foreign debts will start to think twice about treating the IADB as a preferred creditor, they say.

Provisions

Nicaragua and Panama fell more than six months behind with interest payments last year, forcing the 44-nation bank to set aside loan-loss provisions for the first time.

Peru has also come close to the 180-day limit, causing concern over what would happen to the bank's earnings and its top-flight credit rating, which enables it to borrow money on the finest terms, if big borrowers give up on the bank.

"Our back is right up against the wall," one source said.

Sterling derives further support this week

US economic activity remains robust

ECONOMIC data releases con-

tinued to provide more than ample evidence that US economic activity remains robust. However, the implied need to keep interest rates firm failed to support the dollar with counter comments by President Bush that he was not "overly concerned about inflation". The merchandise trade deficit number although better than anticipated was only slightly improved on the previous month. The dollar hesitated initially with gains virtually eroded by the end of the week and the dollar ended the week at DM1.84, £1.26 and \$1.77, according to NBK weekly market review.

Completions of new homes rose a much higher than expected 5.9 per cent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,517 million units compared to November's 1,432 million. This left completions 6.6 per cent below the December 1987 level of 1,624 million units. For the whole of 1988, completions on a non-seasonally adjusted basis fell 8.4 per cent to 1,53 million units from 1,67 million units in 1987.

Retail sales rose 0.6 per cent in January compared to a revised 0.1 per cent fall in December which was the largest increase in total sales since a 1.3 per cent gain in November. This was a higher rise than the 0.3 per cent increase forecast.

Capacity utilisation was 84.4 per cent in January, the same as the previous month and slightly above the market forecast.

Business inventories increased by a higher than anticipated 0.9 per cent in December after a 0.4 per cent rise in November. This was the largest monthly gain since a 1.1 per cent increase last August. For the whole of 1988, business inventories rose 7.7 per cent.

Housing starts were up 8 per cent in January compared to a 0.1 per cent increase in December — the largest rise since an 8.6 per cent increase in February 1989. The 1,693 million unit annual rate of starts was the greatest since a 1,720 million unit annual

rate in March 1987.

Merchandise trade — the trade deficit fell to a seasonally adjusted \$11.89 billion in December following a revised downward \$12.22 billion gap in November and this was in line with market forecasts.

Proposals

The budget deficit debate did not get off to a too auspicious start with President Bush's announced budget proposals.

The stated budget of \$98.4 billion compares with the Gramm-Rudman Holling target of \$100 billion and failed to specify exactly where the expenditure cuts and freezes were to take place.

However, the process of

negotiation between the President and Congress is likely

to prove difficult particularly in the near-term as Congress tries to

identify exactly where public

expenditure losses will result.

On balance, however, neither side

wants to be seen to be undermining

discussions and a more conciliatory approach than under

President Reagan is expected.

Despite the apparent conflict in policy objectives between

President Bush and the central

bank, the Federal Reserve will

need to continue to tighten its

monetary stance as data is

indicating that activity remains

sufficiently robust and strong

to buoy import demand which is

adding to inflationary fears.

Therefore interest rate support

should continue to keep the

dollar within current trading

ranges whilst some temporary

upturn cannot be ruled out.

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Economists believe '89 will be a make-or-break year for co-operation

Louvre currency accord faces stiffest test

LONDON, Feb 19: (Reuter): Two years ago in Paris, over a champagne dinner at the Louvre, financial leaders of the West's five richest nations called a halt to a 14-year experiment with freely floating exchange rates.

Since then the "Louvre accord," an ambitious attempt to co-ordinate economic policy, has survived the world stock markets crash of 1987 and courted wild currency swings that plagued the 1970s and the early years of the Reagan presidency.

But critics say finance ministers have failed in their goal of correcting world trade imbalances and promises to co-operate on fiscal policy remain largely unfulfilled.

Intractable

A daily reminder is the intractable US budget deficit and many economists believe 1989 will be a make-or-break year for co-operation. Doubts about the concept of targeting exchange rates, the core of the Louvre accord, are surfacing.

"Exchange rates were the easiest thing to target in 1987."

said Paul Chertkow, chief international economist at brokers Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. "It was an easy option and everyone thought everything else would fall into place. It didn't."

The Louvre accord was struck by finance ministers and central bank governors of the United States, Japan, France, Britain and West Germany over dinner on Feb 21, 1987.

The next day's communiqué, also signed by Canada, spoke of co-operation to "foster stability of exchange rates around current levels," a form of words that disguised a secretly agreed system of targeting rates or "managed float."

Collapse

It spelled the end of the era of freely floating exchange rates that followed the collapse in the early 1970s of the Bretton Woods and Smithsonian systems of fixed currency parities.

"There is little nostalgia for the Bretton Woods system of fixed rates," said Richard O'Brien, chief economist at American Express Bank.

"Equally we are no longer under the illusion that free floating brings much benefit. A careful managed float is the order of the day."

Some economists disagree. Martin Feldstein, former presidential economic adviser to Ronald Reagan, said in December the dollar's value should be left to the market. "The time has come to abandon the policy of trying to target the dollar."

The cost of targeting is considerable. Central banks have spent \$10 billion this year to stop the dollar rising.

Commitment

The Group of Seven (G-7) nations now co-ordinating policy — the original six signatories of the Louvre accord plus Italy — stress their commitment to the Louvre strategy.

But the ground is shifting.

"The idea of targeting exchange rates will not be publicly abandoned," said Chertkow. "But there has been some backtracking and the G-7 has moved to looking at other economic goals."

The accord is generally seen as having notched up successes:

The seven have held currencies relatively steady through intervention and closer co-ordination of monetary policy. The strategy stopped the dollar going into free fall after a 1985 pact, the Plaza accord, succeeded in pushing the currency down.

Stability

Currency stability has aided world growth and investment. Protectionism, rife in 1985 before Reagan abandoned his "hands off policy" towards the dollar, has abated.

The Louvre accord has imposed discipline on G-7 nations with the turning point coming with the Crash of '87 when a public row between the United States and West Germany unnerved markets.

"The crash focussed central bankers' and finance ministers' attention on policy co-operation rather than targeting exchange rates for their own sake," said David Morrison, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs International Ltd.

"If that proved to be successful, the result would in any case be less exchange rate instability."

The dollar was in fact trading last Friday at almost exactly the same level against the mark as on the eve of the accord.

"But that," says Chertkow, "is more luck than judgement."

Foreign borrowing is enslaving, says Montazeri

NICOSIA, Feb 19, (Reuter): Iran's designated future leader, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, has said the private sector, rather than foreign money, should spearhead the country's post-war reconstruction.

"If we start thinking about foreign borrowing it would mean selling the country to foreigners," the Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying in a speech to bazaar merchants.

"Those who have rushed to us to offer so-called help for reconstruction — where were they during the war and hardships? They would not help us one bit."

Iranian leaders say they will use foreign help to repair billions of dollars of damage caused by eight years of war with Iraq, but they have differed on whether Iran should also seek foreign credits.

Montazeri, 66, chosen in 1985 to succeed Ayatollah Khomeini as Iran's supreme leader, said instead of borrowing the government should give a free hand to the private sector to revive trade and industry.

"The government cannot be a good businessman... it is committing a big mistake by taking over trade affairs which brings a lot of harm to the society," he said.

Government officials, he said, should learn from Soviet authorities "who after 70 years have come to the conclusion that the nationalisation of trade affairs was the cause of economic backwardness."

Algeria to launch gas export drive

ALGIERS, Feb 19, (OPECNA): OPEC member Algeria is embarking on a drive to find new markets for its natural gas liquids in the United States, Japan and Europe in a bid to increase foreign exchange revenues.

Details of the scheme were discussed here on Wednesday at a meeting of the newly established National Advisory Board whose membership includes the ministers of energy and petrochemical industries and foreign affairs.

The board also discussed the state of the country's energy resources, conservation and rationalisation of oilfield exploitation and a programme to promote gas to substitute oil. It also considered technological options for the development of the country's energy resources.

The board was set up to map out a comprehensive energy policy and to take steps to ensure its implementation so that hydrocarbons could play their due role in the new economic integration programme.



Abdul Latif Al Kazemi (centre) pictured with other guests during the opening ceremony.

Pakistani embassy plans to hold on regular basis many more carpet exhibitions with a view to enhancing Pakistan's exports.

The commercial section of the

Brazil not considering moratorium despite low reserves

BRASILIA, Brazil, Feb 19, (AP): Brazil is not considering a new moratorium on foreign debt payments despite low cash reserves and a lack of new loans from foreign creditors, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Geraldo Moura, a spokesman in the Finance Ministry, told the Associated Press that Brazil wants to avoid a direct confrontation with foreign creditors, similar to the one in 1987-88, when it suspended interest payments on its foreign debt for 10 months.

"A moratorium is not a solution for an instrument of negotiation," Moura said.

Debt

Brazil's foreign debt is \$15 billion, the largest in the Third World. The government has said debt payments this year will total between \$12 and 14 billion.

However, the Finance Ministry has warned in recent months that Brazil could again suspend debt payments if cash reserves — unofficially estimated between \$4 and 5 billion — fall too low.

Brazil is to pay \$1.3 billion due in March to private banks and the International Monetary Fund.

To make its March payment, Moura said the country was counting on the release of \$600 million in credits by the Japanese government, plus \$500 million from the World Bank and \$600 million from private banks.

Reserves

The level of reserves depends largely on the success of a radical anti-inflation plan announced last month.

The plan aimed at curbing 1,000 per cent inflation by freezing wages and prices and by making sharp cuts in government spending.

Last month, the government delayed a week in paying \$550 million in interest payments, generating rumours of a new moratorium.

The Rio daily newspaper O Globo reported yesterday that a committee of creditor banks in New York announced the release of a \$600-million loan offered last year under a recent debt rescheduling agreement.

The \$82-billion agreement calls for the rescheduling over 20 years of debt due between 1987 and 1993, lower interest rates and \$5.2 billion in new loans.

New Arab trade groupings face long road to success

DUBAI, Feb 19, (Reuter): Spurred by harsh reality, the Arab world is seeking new unity through economic blocs but Gulf economists and officials say they face formidable problems to achieve their aims.

Five North African nations joined forces last week to set up one trade bloc, while four countries at the other end of the Arab world created a similar economic group.

Economics not political ideology form the building blocks of the new structures, but economists said politics, internal economies and trade imbalances were barriers which needed to be overcome for unity to mean much in practical terms.

Officials cited the eight-year-old Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as an example.

Problems

The GCC, as the first Arab sub-regional grouping, recognised the problems it faced — uneven economic development, weak financial services, a lack of real trade flows and a tendency for politics to be a stronger binding factor than trade.

Economists said these failings applied equally to the groups set up by Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

"There is no complementarity between the economies of the four nations," said one economist at another Arab bank in the Gulf.

Iraqi trade with Jordan has been high but only because of the Gulf war when Iraq used Jordan as a re-export-import point.

Trade flows within the group are low. International Monetary Fund statistics show, for example, that in 1986 Egypt's main Arab export partner was Saudi Arabia and its main import partner was the Sudan. Neither coun-

try is a member of the group.

That year Cairo's exports to Arab nations totalled \$334 million, only 2.7 per cent of its total exports. Its imports from Arab states reached \$166 million — only 4.4 per cent of its total imports.

Patterns

The other states in the new groups show similar patterns.

"If there is enough of a trade flow, then a trade bloc could make it more efficient," said an economist on a Gulf bank.

The Maghreb nations' economies in North Africa fit better in this respect but only if they can be weaned from over-reliance on the European Economic Community (EEC) economy, the economists said.

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Slow development in important sectors such as machinery and manufactured goods industries also distorts policy, they said.

If Arab states exported all their machine and transport equipment output to each other it would cover only four to five per cent of their import needs in these goods. For manufactured goods the relevant figure would be around 10 per cent, said the economists.

US, EEC form task force to resolve trade dispute

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (Reuter): The United States and the European Economic Community yesterday failed to resolve a meat trade dispute after two days of talks, but agreed to form a task force to settle the issue in 75 days.

Neither side budged from its position going into the negotiations, but EEC Trade Minister Frans Andriessen said the negotiators showed a willingness to continue discussions and that the EEC council of ministers on Monday probably would not retaliate against US trade sanctions.

"We decided to form a task force to take some more time and try very hard in good spirit and goodwill to work out our differences," US Trade Representative Carla Hills told reporters after six hours of negotiations.

Andriessen said the task force would be made up of a small group of high-level officials from both sides and will be charged

treated with growth hormones.

The United States, which contends the stimulants pose no health hazard, hit \$100 million worth of EEC exports with 100 per cent tariffs when the EEC ban took effect January 21.

EEC foreign ministers had threatened to take counter-retaliatory measures on Monday by slapping stiff tariffs on \$100 million of US goods.

Talks

However, Andriessen said "spirit" demonstrated in the talks here would contribute to a "de-escalation" of the trade conflict.

US officials said they did not expect the EEC to impose the reprisal measures at the meeting of the EEC council in Brussels on Monday.

Andriessen said the task force would be made up of a small group of high-level officials from both sides and will be charged

with settling the trade battle within 75 days.

US and EEC officials characterised the talks as very constructive.

We made substantial progress," Hills said.

However, both sides maintained long-standing positions on the hormones issue, which has threatened to erupt into a major trade war between United States and Western Europe.

"There was no complete solution to the problem," an administration official said. "What's happening is you have a cooling off period. No one at this point has compromised their principles."

"But it's the first time in 18 months that there has been good will and a spirit on both sides to cool off and de-escalate," the official said.

The US administration did not retreat from its position that

the EEC ban on hormone-treated beef is unjustified on health grounds and which US officials have said has created the impression that US meat is unsafe.

"We feel very, very strongly that US beef is one of the healthiest," said the US official, who asked not to be identified.

The principal US feeling that is very important to uphold is a government should not ban a product based on no evidence," the official said.

The US sanctions on seven categories of EEC food imports will remain in effect, US officials said. However, Washington will consider lifting the sanctions in part or entirely if the two sides work out a way to ship US meat to the community, they said.

The ministers failed to agree on having an impartial panel rule on the beef dispute, the official said.

The Bush administration did not retreat from its position that

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P. CLS	LT.	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.070	1.080	1.080	1.080	15000	3
GULF BANK	0.355	0.350	0.350	0.350	10000	5
COMMERCIAL BK	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	70000	5
ALHI BANK	0.280	0.290	0.290	0.285	340000	11
B.K.M.E	0.360	—	—	—	—	—
K.R.E.B.	0.370	—	—	—	—	—
BURGAN BANK	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	20000	1
K.F. HOUSE	0.425	0.425	0.425			

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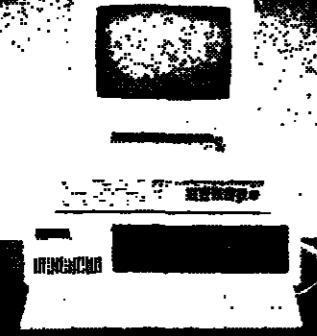
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A new building; deluxe finishing — central air-conditioning, reasonable rents.

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ROOM available for Indian couples or ladies at Kaifan, opp. Jamaiya No. 1, Area No. 3, Street No. 31, House No. 6. Contact Sultan Mohammad in person (10 am - 10 pm). (AT2-46126-3)

KEIFAN, Block 1, Street 16, House 34, behind petrol station. Rooms available for families. Contact Mr Soleman personally. (AT2-46118-3)

FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn. Accommodation for a Goan bachelor to share with a Goan family. Tele. Mr Silvan, 4814499, 4819576, 4814151. (AT1-46096-3)

MITSUBISHI Lancer, '83 model, registered up to 21.12.88, silver metallic, lady-driven. Tele. Mr Khan, 3928743, 3911320, 8.30 am - 1 pm, 4 - 8 pm. (AT2-46088-3)

CARS

MITSUBISHI Lancer, '83 model, registered up to 21.12.88, silver metallic, lady-driven. Tele. Mr Khan, 3928743, 3911320, 8.30 am - 1 pm, 4 - 8 pm. (AT2-46122-3)

LARGE two and half bedroom apartment, off Salimya high street for rent, KD200. Also house furniture and miscellaneous items for sale. Tele. 5744025. (AT1-46103-3)

MAID required, Sri Lankan for a family, part-time, once in a week in Fallaika island. Must speak English or Arabic. Salary KD15 per week plus transport allowance. Tele. 2790074, 9 am - 1 pm. (AT1-46103-3)

MAID required, Filipino, for European family. Must speak English. Tele. 2413532, 2413546. (AT1-46097-3)

WANTED

EXPERIENCED maid, part-time/ full time available. Tele. 5628173, 10 am - 1 pm only. (AT2-46123-3)

MALE secretary/typist, experienced in office routine, telex and self-correspondence, available for an immediate employment. Tele. 4876884, 2443465. (AT2-46105-3)

PETS

TWO Persian kittens, male, 8 months old, grey colour, fully vaccinated, good with children, for sale. KD65 each. Tele. 3721297, 3721298. (AT1-46088-3)

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TOYOTA Corona, '74 model, automatic, with AC, radio tape, insured upto June 1988 in good condition. KD200. Tele. 2428555

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MALE secretary/typist, experienced in office routine, telex and self-correspondence, available for an immediate employment. Tele. 4876884, 2443465. (AT2-46105-3)

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PASSPORT, No C 517441 in the name of Ashiq Hussain Bhatti, son of Khuda Buih, Pakistani. Finder please tele. 4840950 ext 362. (AT2-46109-2)

MALE secretary/typist, experienced in office routine, telex and self-correspondence, available for an immediate employment. Tele. 4876884, 2443465. (AT2-46105-3)

SERVICES

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REQUIRED teacher, M.Com or Chartered Accountant for a M.Com student of business finance under Poona University, India. Tele. 4842988 ext. 2468. 8.30 am-12 noon. (AT2-46111-3)

2-4pm only. (AT2-TM-3)

WANTED

For immediate employment

An executive secretary

Male/female

With good command of English and Arabic, both spoken and written.

Contact tel: 2418547

RENT

Daugherty and Price take Cavaliers past 76ers

NEW YORK, Feb 19, (AP): Brad Daugherty scored 24 points and Mark Price added 22 as the Cleveland Cavaliers coasted to their 17th consecutive home court victory, 118-100 over the Philadelphia 76ers last night.

The Cavaliers led 64-40 at half-time on Ron Harper's 15 points and Price's 14. Cleveland went on to improve to 38-12, the best record in the National Basketball Association.

Knicks 125, Nets 115

Gerald Wilkins scored 19 of his 29 points in the first half and the New York Knicks rolled to their 18th consecutive home victory, 125-115 over the New Jersey Nets.

The Knicks, with the NBA's best home record of 21-1, are two victories shy of the team record of 20 straight set in 1968-69 and 1972-73.

Hornets 118, Pacers 114

Kelly Tripucka scored 30 points and Rex Chapman added a season-high 27 as the Charlotte Hornets handed the Indiana Pacers their 10th straight loss, 119-114.

Led by Chapman's outside shooting, the Hornets went on a 17-7 run late in the third quarter to turn a 72-70 deficit into a 87-79 lead.

Rockets 105, Mavericks 94

Mike Woodson scored eight points during a 23-10 run that opened the third quarter, sending the Houston Rockets past the Dallas Mavericks 105-94.

Houston stretched a three-point halftime lead to 74-59 with six minutes left in the third quarter, and the Mavericks never got closer than eight the rest of the way.

Jazz 107, Spurs 93

Karl Malone scored 32 points and Mark Eaton tied a career high with 14 blocked shots and the Utah Jazz overcame a 15-point deficit to defeat the San Antonio Spurs 107-93.

John Stockton added 22 points and 11 assists for the Jazz, while Frank Brickowski scored 22 points and Albert King 20 for the Spurs, who lost for the sixth straight time.

Sonics 116, Trail Blazers 115

Xavier McDaniel scored 23 of his season-high 37 points in the second half, leading the Seattle SuperSonics to a 116-115 victory over Portland, spoiling the debut of Rick Adelman as coach of the Trail Blazers.

Warriors 121, Pistons 119 OT

Clutch free throws in the final 27 seconds by Rod Higgins, Steve Alford and Chris Mullin lifted the Golden State Warriors to a 121-119 overtime victory and spoiled Mark Aguirre's debut with the Detroit Pistons.

The Warriors posted their 10th straight home victory while ending Detroit's win streak at seven games despite Dennis Rodman's career-high totals of 32 points and 21 rebounds.

Bullets 98, Clippers 93

Jeff Malone scored six of his 20 points in the last 4:35 of the game and Bernard King added 18 as the Washington Bullets held off the stubborn Los Angeles Clippers 98-93.

The Clippers, paced by rookie Charles Smith's 17 points suffered their fourth straight defeat and their 23rd in the last 24 games.

Suns 120, Kings 101

Kevin Johnson had 24 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists and Tom Chambers scored 28 points, leading the Phoenix Suns to their fifth consecutive victory, a 120-101 decision over the Sacramento Kings.

Jeff Hornacek added 20 points and Eddie Johnson 19, including four 3-point baskets, tying a franchise record for the Suns.

Results

Charlotte 119 Indiana 114
Cleveland 119 Philadelphia 108
New York 125 New Jersey 106
Utah 107 San Antonio 93
Golden State 121 Detroit 119
Washington 98 LA Clippers 93
Seattle 116 Portland 115
Phoenix 120 Sacramento 101

SHOAIB AND AAMER HIT SHELL XI FOR HALF CENTURIES

Imran's 98-minute ton lifts Pakistan



Imran: hit 17 fours and two sixes

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb 19, (Reuters): Imran Khan, batting at number eight, struck a thunderous 104 to revive his struggling Pakistani cricketers on the first day of their three-day match against a Shell XI selection at McLean Park today.

All-rounder Imran came in at 166 for six and unleashed a thrilling 98-minute onslaught which spurred the touring team to 282 for nine at the close.

Emerged

Pakistan's captain cracked 17 fours and two sixes, his innings reaching a peak in the penultimate over of the day when he thrashed the second new ball used by Steve Brown for 26, including five fours and a six, to reach his hundred.

Imran was out in the last over, caught by Gavin Larsen off Gary Robertson. The wicket was Robertson's fifth of the innings, good reward for the left-arm paceman's fiery 19.4 overs from which he emerged with five for 44.

Pakistan, who were reduced to eight for two after winning the toss, had scored slowly until Imran's arrival.

Shoaib Mohammad (56) and Aamer Malik (81) repaired the early damage with a third-wicket

stand of 123, taking advantage of a good pitch and fine conditions for some useful practice.

Aamer played attractively at times, batting for 177 minutes and facing 160 balls in an innings containing 12 boundaries, while Shoaib made his runs from 89 balls in 111 minutes.

Imran apart, the rest of the Pakistanis failed to make the most of their opportunity, and among wickets needlessly thrown away were Rizwan-uz-Zaman and Tauseef Ahmed to run out mix-ups.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand cricket selectors today named an unusually large squad of 15 players for the third and final Test against Pakistan, which begins on Friday at Eden Park in Auckland.

Batsman Mark Greatbatch, who broke a thumb while taking a catch in the Shell Trophy match last month, has been included, while veteran left-arm spinner Stephen Boock has been recalled.

All-rounder Dipak Patel retained his place despite scoring a duck and two in the second Test.

The squad will be trimmed to 12 on the eve of the Test, officials said.

The first Test of the series was washed out, with the second Test ending in a draw.

The New Zealand squad is:

John Wright (captain), Stephen Boock, John Bracewell, Ewen Chatfield, Jeff Crowe, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Richard Hadlee, Andrew Jones, Danny Morrison, Dipak Patel, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden, Robert Vance, Willie Watson.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings
Muhammad Iqbal c Blain b Robertson 5
Rizwan-uz-Zaman run out 2
Shoaib Mohammad c Priest b Robertson 56

Aamer Malik c Larsen b Priest 81
Salim Malik c Blain b Priest 0
Salim Yousaf c Larsen b Robertson 10
Abdul Qadir c Blain b Robertson 4
Imran Khan c Larsen b Robertson 104
Tauseef Ahmed run out 2
Salim Jaffer not out 4
Extras (b-1 nb-5 nb-8) 14
Total (nine wickets) 282

Fall of wickets: 1-82 2-83 3-131 4-131
5-155 6-166 7-166 8-194 9-282

To bat: Asqiq Javed

Bowling to date: Beyer 17-3-47-0,

Robertson 19-4-6-44-5 (nb-6), Brown 17-3-82-0 (nb-4), Larsen 8-1-24-0, Priest 26-7-79-2.

SHELL XI: D. White, P. Dobbs, G.

Larsen, R. Latham, B. Young, T.

Blain, C. Kengaleja (captain), S.

Brown, G. Robertson, M. Priest, F.

Beyer.



Flo Jo and Biondi clinch top honours

PORLAND, Oregon, Feb 19, (UPI): Three-time Olympic sprint gold medalist Florence Griffith-Joyner and seven-time swimming medalist Matt Biondi were named yesterday the US Olympic Committee's Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year.

Griffith-Joyner edged out teen swimming sensation Janet Evans by a mere six points — 361 to 355. Speed skater Bonnie Blair finished third with 428 points, while diver Michele Mitchell was fourth and gymnast Phoebe Mills fifth.

Biondi, who won five gold medals in the Summer Olympics, also claimed the honour by six points, edging out diver Greg Louganis by a 506-500 count. Figure skater Brian Boitano was third with 32 points, kayak specialist Greg Barton fourth and sprinter Carl Lewis fifth.

Opposition

The tour will consist of two fixtures. On Thursday, the opposition will be the British Club and then the following day Casuals will play a Select XI.

The team will be captained by Richard Snowden and include Val Tudball, Simon Clements, Kevin Wells, Tim Stafford, Ron Seward, Steve Anderson, Ray Fernando, Adi Silverman, Peter White, Nigel Tatham, Peter Bond, club scorer Fiona Seward and mascots Hanan and Annabel. Wives and families will also accompany the side.

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Remainder

Three Canadians finished in the top eight — Karen Percy was sixth in 1:43.33, Kerri Lee Seventh in 1:43.42 and Lucie Laroche eighth in 1:43.60.

The victory increased Figini's lead over Walliser in the downhill standings to 24 points — 126 to 102 — with two downhill remaining, including another one here today.

Each victory is worth 25 points.

It was Figini's fourth victory of the season and her third win in Canada in the last three years.

Walliser, who has won the other two of the six downhills this season, skied her best run of the week but said she still had problems in the middle, technical sections.

"But I think this was a special race for me because I am still not feeling well and I knew I maybe wasn't prepared to win so second the \$12,000 first prize today."

"I feel like it's something I'm working toward. I'll be disappointed if I don't win tomorrow," he said.

Elkington takes 2-shot lead in Open

LA JOLLA, Calif., Feb 19, (Reuters): Australian Steve Elkington, looking for his first victory on the US PGA Tour, birdied his final hole yesterday to take a two-shot lead going into the final round of the San Diego Open.

Elkington used an eagle three on the 533-yard 13th hole to assume the lead and then birdied the 18th hole to double his advantage over American Greg Twiggs.

The Australian toured the 7,021-yard south course at Torrey Pines in five-under-par 67. Twiggs posted a blistering round of 64 that moved him to 14-under-par 202 after 54 holes.

"I'm playing well so there's no reason I shouldn't have a good chance tomorrow," said Elkington, who hopes to end his three-year wait for a title by collecting the \$12,000 first prize today.

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